

## Grandparents Day Finds Beginnings in the Mountain State

It seems we Mountaineers have a long, proud history of honoring both our parents and grandparents. In April, we discussed how Mother's Day began in West Virginia. In May, we profiled the State's roots in the history of Father's Day. This month, we'd like to tell you about how another West Virginian is credited with the establishment of the relatively new day of celebration known as Grandparents Day!

**The concept of the holiday came from Fayette County native Marian Lucille Herndon McQuade.**

Mrs. McQuade had long been interested in senior issues; in fact, her work with senior citizens began years before, in 1956, and she has

dedicated her life to being an advocate for seniors. She has worked in several states, and has served as President of the Vocational Rehabilitation Foundation, Vice-President of the West Virginia Health Systems Agency, and was appointed to the Nursing Home Licensing Board. In 1971, Mrs. McQuade was elected Vice-Chairman of the West Virginia Committee on Aging. That same year, former Governor Arch A. Moore, Jr. appointed her to the White House Conference on Aging.

Mrs. McQuade's efforts to establish Grandparents Day began in



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### From the First Lady's Desk:

## September is 'Every Child Matters' Month

September is a hectic time of year as we anticipate the beginning of school, fall sport schedules, and all of the zillion and one activities that seem to all revolve around CHILDREN. Therefore,

it is not surprising that the Every Child Matters Education Fund in Washington is conducting a nationwide event to raise the visibility of children's issues during this important time of year.

This group is a national, non-profit, non-partisan organization working to make new public investments in children and families a priority. On issues like this, it is about being responsible citizens first and foremost.

All 50 states will host *Step Up For Kids Day* on Tuesday, September 16, with events at their capitols. Prevent Child Abuse West Vir-

ginia, under the direction of Jim McKay, will be coordinating our statewide event.

He is using this day as a starting point for a community dialogue about our kids and West Virginia's future. "We will have a distinguished panel participating in a joint discussion affirming the importance of children to West Virginia's future and offering ideas for ways to ensure a brighter future for our children," Jim explained when I called to get the details.

The focus will certainly be around access to early care and learning op-



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portunities, after-school programs, preventing child abuse and neglect, alleviating child poverty, and promoting children's health, which continue to be the same issues that have, and will continue to have, the greatest impact on our children.

While the plan here is to videotape the panel discussion at the Clay Center in Charleston, which would then be shared online, it is hoped that many communities will want to utilize the opportunity to provide for community members and elected officials to discuss solutions together at town meetings, candidate forums, and in general programs.

In addition, Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia will be sharing resources (bumper stickers, posters, suggested questions for candidates, etc.) with our community partners, Children's Trust Fund grantees, Family Resource Networks, etc., and anyone who can use them. I think the diversity of business, labor, faith, and policy makers affirming their support that children should be a priority will be very compelling.

If you would like to be a part of this national movement and particularly to participate in an event on September 16, please contact Jim McKay, State Coordinator, Prevent Child Abuse WV at Post Office Box 1653, Huntington, WV 25717, or call 304-697-0340, or email [pcawv@teamwv.org](mailto:pcawv@teamwv.org). Their website is [www.preventchildabusewv.org](http://www.preventchildabusewv.org).

I would like to encourage every community in West Virginia to get involved in this effort to heighten the awareness of how we can collectively provide more and better resources to level the playing field for every child in West Virginia. As local events occur in your area, it becomes a great venue to distribute information and encourage discussions. **In West Virginia, the Governor and I join with YOU in affirming our belief that:**  
**EVERY CHILD MATTERS!**

## DOP Makes Major Testing Change

**As of Tuesday, September 2, 2008, applicants who wish to test in Charleston for jobs covered under the Division of Personnel Merit System will need to do so at the Workforce WV Office, located at 1321 Plaza East. Testing will be conducted as follows:**

TUESDAYS: General Written Examinations

THURSDAYS: Administrative Secretary\* Insurance Assistant\*  
Secretary 1 and 2\* Data Entry Operator 1 and 2\*  
Office Assistant 1, 2, and 3 (Typing\* and Non-Typing)

*\* Indicates performance testing required*

**All examinations start promptly at 6:00 P.M. Applicants do not need to make an appointment; however, there is limited booklet and seating availability. Late applicants will not be admitted. Applicants are also encouraged to submit their initial application using our online system at [www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/jobs/default.htm](http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/jobs/default.htm).**

**For more, call a Division of Personnel Counselor at 558-3950, ext. 57207**

## Preservation of Jenkins Plantation Underway

The historic Jenkins Plantation Museum in Cabell County is now closed for approximately 12-18 months to undergo preservation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The facility is the former home of Confederate Brigadier General Albert Gallatin Jenkins, and also interprets the large slave plantation operated by the Jenkins family. The home was built in 1835 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It's also on the Civil War Discovery Trail.

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1970. Her efforts were picked up and promoted by civic, church, business, and political leaders (Senator Jennings Randolph was especially instrumental), resulting in expansion statewide. In 1973, Governor Moore proclaimed the first Grandparents Day in West Virginia, and Senator Randolph introduced a resolution in the U.S. Senate, which sadly never made it out of committee. It became apparent more support was needed.

To help promote the cause, Mrs. McQuade and her team of supporters turned to the media. They enlisted support from churches, businesses, and other national organiza-

tions by writing letters, and they contacted the governors, senators, and congressmen in every state. Her perseverance paid off in 1978, when the Congress passed legislation naming the first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparents Day, which then-President Jimmy Carter then signed.

In addition to her work with senior citizens, Mrs. McQuade knows a thing or two about being both a parent and grandparent ... she and her husband, Joe, are the parents of 15 children, from which came 40 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren!

**The month of September was chosen for Grandparents Day to signify "the autumn years" of life.**

## Surplus Property Improves Method for Sales to General Public

*Excerpted from the September 2008 issue of Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes, the Department of Administration's newsletter.*

The State Agency for Surplus Property (Surplus Property) is utilizing a new way to sell State property to the general public.

Legislation passed by the West Virginia Legislature during the 2008 Regular Session has made a notable change in the way Surplus Property is allowed to sell items to the general public. The general public may now purchase items from Surplus Property the day a visit is made at their Dunbar warehouse. Prior to the change, the general public had to first submit a sealed bid on an item and then wait until the beginning of the following workweek to see if the bid was successful. House Bill 4664, which passed on March 7, 2008 made several changes to the policies and procedures for the Purchasing Division, under which Surplus Property is structured.

Surplus Property Manager Ken Frye anticipates the new procedure will increase sales. "We have had, in the past, people from out of town come to visit because they heard about us and wanted to see what we had. When they learned they could not purchase an item during their visit, they would leave discouraged because it was not worth their while to place a sealed bid on an item and then have to make a second trip back if they got the winning bid," Frye said.

Surplus Property will accept checks, money orders, MasterCard, and Visa for these general public direct sales; however, cash is not accepted.



*In the market for a commercial use ice machine? This Hoshizaki ice maker is only one of the items offered for sale by Surplus Property.*

## WV State Parks Win Awards

*Information contributed by Robert Gilligan of Blackwater Falls State Park and Sissie Summers of WV State Parks; photo contributed by Sissie Summers.*

Every five years, Blue Ridge Country magazine readers vote on their favorite places to eat, overnight, hike, bike, camp, wildlife watch, and more. Awards are given to locations in each of nine states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. In West Virginia, we congratulate the following State parks for their accomplishments in the Best of the Blue Ridge category:

<b>Pipestem Resort State Park:</b>	<b>Platinum</b>
<b>Babcock State Park:</b>	<b>Gold</b>
<b>Blackwater Falls State Park:</b>	<b>Silver</b>

Park officials at each location, as well as here at the Capitol, were very pleased to be recognized for the outstanding level of service and attention to detail that has become fa-

miliar to park visitors for many years. They credit this service as one of many reasons for return trips.

According to Sissie Summers of West Virginia State Parks, "West Virginia just happens to be naturally wonderful, and Pipestem, Babcock, and Blackwater Falls represent three of all our State parks, which in our view, creates a winning park system for the State."

Summers adds that it is an honor to be included in these awards. We are among the most well-known attractions and scenic areas in the United States!

In addition to the Best of the Blue Ridges awards, the Greenbrier River Trail received a silver award in the Hiking Trail category.

**Autumn is approaching, and there's no better place to watch it unfold than in a West Virginia State Park.**

Click Here 



or Go Online at [www.wvstateparks.com](http://www.wvstateparks.com)



**Blackwater Falls State Park Received Best of Blue Ridge Silver Award**

## GO GREEN! It saves resources AND money!

The General Services Division and the Division of Energy collaborated to provide the following to help us all make State Government more energy efficient.



### Making State Government Energy Efficient How YOU Can Make a Difference!

What can you do to make your office environment more energy efficient? There are many opportunities to conserve energy in the workplace. Here are the Top 5 things you can do to make a difference:

- #1 Use Less Energy at Your Work Space**
  - Turn off your computer, monitor and printer daily (sleep mode uses energy)
  - Don't have personal appliances, such as refrigerators, space heaters, coffee pots, or microwaves
  - Do have one break area for everyone
- #2 Embrace Office Temperature Settings..."Dress for Comfort"**
- #3 Be a Good Energy Citizen**
  - Turn off lights when you leave a room
  - Be positive about conservation...You are saving YOUR tax dollars too!
  - Report maintenance issues, especially leaks or running water
- #4 Review Agency Operations**
  - Network printers and copiers
  - Appoint an energy monitor or committee
- #5 Improve Building Energy Use**
  - Upgrade windows
  - Install weather-stripping
  - Reduce lighting requirements
  - Repair windows

Does it REALLY make a difference? YES, it does! Did you know...?

- A desktop computer with a monitor that is on for 7 hours will cost \$27.46 to operate each year in electricity
- An average copy machine with a finisher left on during the day and with sleep mode after hours will cost \$537 a year in electricity (sleep mode uses 30% of base usage)
- A single 4-tube 48" light fixture left burning will cost \$78.34 in electricity each year

Try doing your part in conserving energy ... Make a difference TODAY!

## Pencil In ...



Have some spare time on Monday nights? Looking to strike up new friendships? **The Statehouse Bowling League** could be right up your alley! The league is looking for teams of five, with at least one male and one female. Not on a team? Spots for individuals are available! Contact Bob Blosser (robert.l.blosser@wv.gov or 558-9724) for more information.



**Do you grow your own cooking herbs** such as basil, oregano, rosemary, etc.? To get the maximum flavor from drying them, cut them just before their flowers open.



**Happy 77<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Grant Town, WV native Tom Wilson** on August 1. Who's Tom Wilson? He's the cartoonist who **created the lovable character of Ziggy**. He also served 35 years as the creative head of American Greetings, and was involved in licensing for Strawberry Shortcake and Care Bears.



## DOH, Communities to Install Birdhouses

The Division of Highways, working jointly with Purple Martin enthusiast Zelma Boggess and the 4-H Clubs of West Virginia will erect Purple Martin and Bluebird houses around West Virginia's rest areas and welcome centers.

Groundbreaking ceremonies have been held at some locations already, and others will be announced as they are scheduled.

The birdhouses are being graciously donated by David R. McClaskey, President of S&K Manufacturing of O'Fallon, Missouri.

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